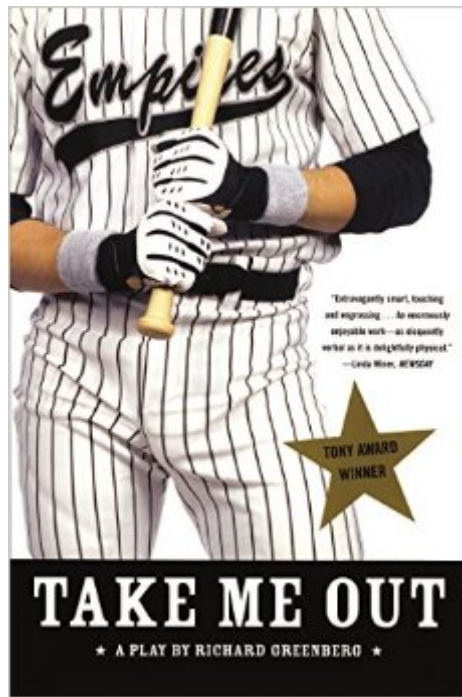


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# Take Me Out: A Play



## Synopsis

"A funny and troubling look at athletes and identity . . . Take Me Out is a dynamic, involving play." — Donald Lyons, New York Post

Darren Lemming is the star center fielder for the champion New York Empires. An extraordinary athlete, he fills both his fans and his teammates with awe at his abilities and his presence on the field and off. When he makes the matter-of-fact announcement that he's gay, he throws his team into turmoil and confusion, while he also emboldens his closeted accountant, Mason Marzac, to come to terms with his own sexuality and to fully experience the pure joy of watching great athletes play a sport as well as it can be played. But Darren's announcement brings to the fore the confused and twisted hostilities of the Empires' brilliantly talented but deeply racist and homophobic pitcher, Shane Mungitt — from whose rage tragic consequences ensue.

The American premiere of Take Me Out took place at the Public Theater in New York City in September 2002. It later moved to the Walter Kerr Theatre on Broadway in February 2003.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Richard Greenberg walks a delicate but intriguing line in his play "Take Me Out". He tries to avoid cliches and stereotypes in a play that is all about cliches and stereotypes of all sorts. The end result is an intriguing, compelling, and often funny look at how baseball and in a larger sense, America, handled, is handling, or will handle her diversity. Take Me Out starts out about a talented gay baseball player, Darren Lemming of the fictional Empires, who has already come out of the closet to his team and the world before the play begins. Instead of falling into the now thankfully tired cliché

of the team and coach having to "deal" with Darren's sexuality, Greenberg allows the team to deal with the news quickly and move on with the story, including his literary and intelligent best friend Kippy, who narrates the play. Bring in Shane Mungitt, a relief pitcher who struggles to put two words intelligibly together, and in turn, revives the Empire's sagging baseball season. Through his gruffness and lack of communication, Shane clearly becomes the play's antagonist, and does so quite publicly and unintentionally, on television during an interview. Shane spouts off a quick string of prejudicial labels that shock and dismay his team right at the end of act one. Of course, act two picks up with the team having to deal (or not deal) with Shane's obvious bigotry, which leads to a series of surprising and shocking events that somehow make sense in the larger sense of the play. Greenberg never allows his play to fall into a stereotypical trap of victimization. Throughout the play, Darren retains his leadership and assertiveness, and even publicly rebels against any sympathy garnered from the public by Shane's outburst.

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